

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT Governmental Reaction to Foreign Broadcast Reception in Poland; Farmer's Black Market Activities

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1. The Polish radio station in Prudnik (Neustadt - 053/776) transmits Polish, Soviet and other satellite countries' broadcasts by means of wire to loud-speakers set up in almost every house in the village of Szybowice. The monthly charge for the use of such a loud-speaker is 80 zlotys. On the other hand, it is required that all radio receivers be registered with the local officials. The monthly charge for possessing a radio receiver is 500 zlotys. There are known to be about 200 receivers in the town of which only five have been registered. About half the population of Szybowice listens at various times to foreign broadcasts in the Polish language. So far, it has not been prohibited to do so, although it is believed that all those who are known to listen to foreign broadcasts are registered by the UB (the internal security police) office.
2. The government is trying to prevent Poles from listening to foreign broadcasts by jamming such broadcasts as "Dziennik radjowy" from London, the Voice of America and the Madrid programs, and by reducing the output from the Mysa (Weise) power plant at the times of these broadcasts. The government has tried to overcome the negative attitude of the population toward its official programs by using the so-called "Fala 49" or wavelength 49 system of cutting in to regular broadcasts at unannounced times with short propaganda programs.
3. Polish farmers in the Prudnik area sell all their produce on the black market other than what must be sold to the government at regulated prices. The items which bring the highest prices on the black market are pork and pork sausage. The government is trying to combat the black market by imposing heavy sentences on all farmers convicted of such activity. However, the farmers are able to operate in comparative safety by dealing only with a limited number of trusted customers.

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